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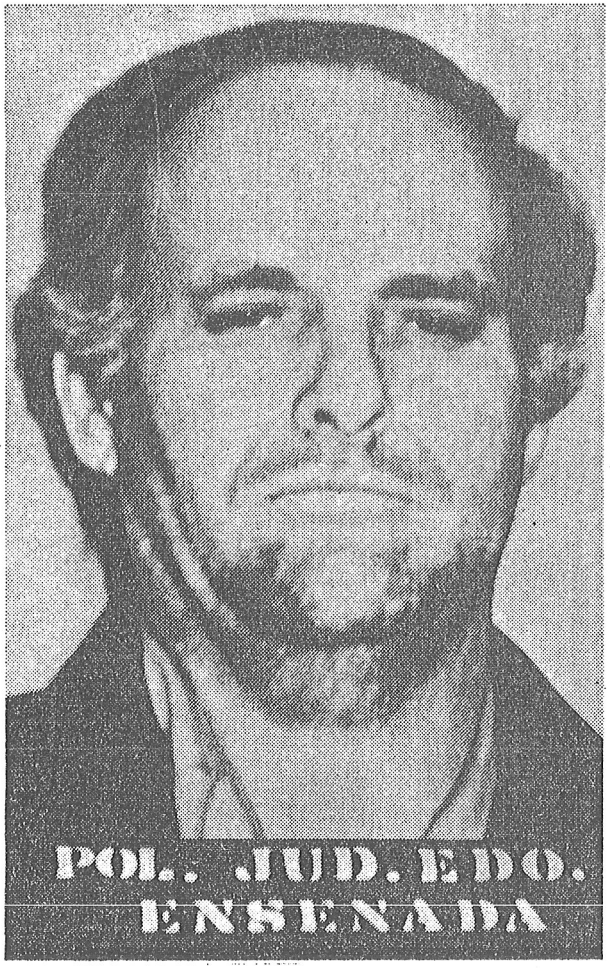
JFK ASSASSINATION

CULT LEADER IS NO. 1 SUSPECT



EXCLUSIVE STORIES AND PHOTOS

Convicted killer Ervil LeBaron is the top suspect in the JFK assassination. LeBaron — shown in Mexican police mug shots taken after his arrest for cult murders — has been tied to the Kennedy case by once-secret FBI and Secret Service documents. Former Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry says flatly: "LeBaron is the major suspect." (P. 36.)

After Govt. Panel Concludes There Was Probably a Conspiracy . . .

Cult Leader Is No. 1 Suspect in JFK Assassination

The Number One suspect in the JFK assassination is a murderous cult leader known as the "Avenging Angel."

His name is Ervil LeBaron — and he heads a cruel killing cult that has painted the Southwest red with blood.

LeBaron's major involvement in the JFK murder has emerged fast on the heels of the House Select-Committee on Assassinations' stunning conclusion that John Kennedy "was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy" — a finding which came after many years of official denial.

ENQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

In a once-secret FBI document — obtained by The ENQUIRER through the Freedom of Information Act — FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover admitted that LeBaron's sect "is believed to have been responsible for President Kennedy's death."

That shocking document, and other papers once kept under lock and key by the FBI and Secret Service, link the brutal cult leader straight to the assassination.

LeBaron, 53, is now on the run from both the FBI, which wants him on another murder charge, and the Secret Service, which wants to question him about death threats to President Carter.

"LeBaron is the major suspect (in JFK's assassination). He should be tracked down and questioned," declared former Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry, who was present when Kennedy was shot.

"I was never convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. The committee's findings confirm what I have always felt — that a second gunman was involved."

U.S. Rep. H. Joel Deckard (R.-Ind.), who has researched the assassination for more than 10 years, agreed: "LeBaron must be considered the prime suspect. He should be arrested and questioned."

The fanatic also is suspected of masterminding the attempted assassination of publisher Larry Flynt last year — allegedly to keep him from revealing new information on the JFK murder, an ENQUIRER investigation reveals. Flynt is now so scared that he won't talk about the case.

The power-crazed LeBaron and his followers are not only believed responsible for JFK's assassination — they also have threatened the lives of other Presidents since Kennedy, and are believed to have committed a string of murders since JFK's death.

"Ervil wants to take over the world — and anyone who gets in his way will be eliminated," the fugitive cult leader's brother, Alma LeBaron, told The ENQUIRER in an exclusive interview.

"He's been killing people for years. He'll keep telling his followers to go out and kill people as long as he can keep doing it.

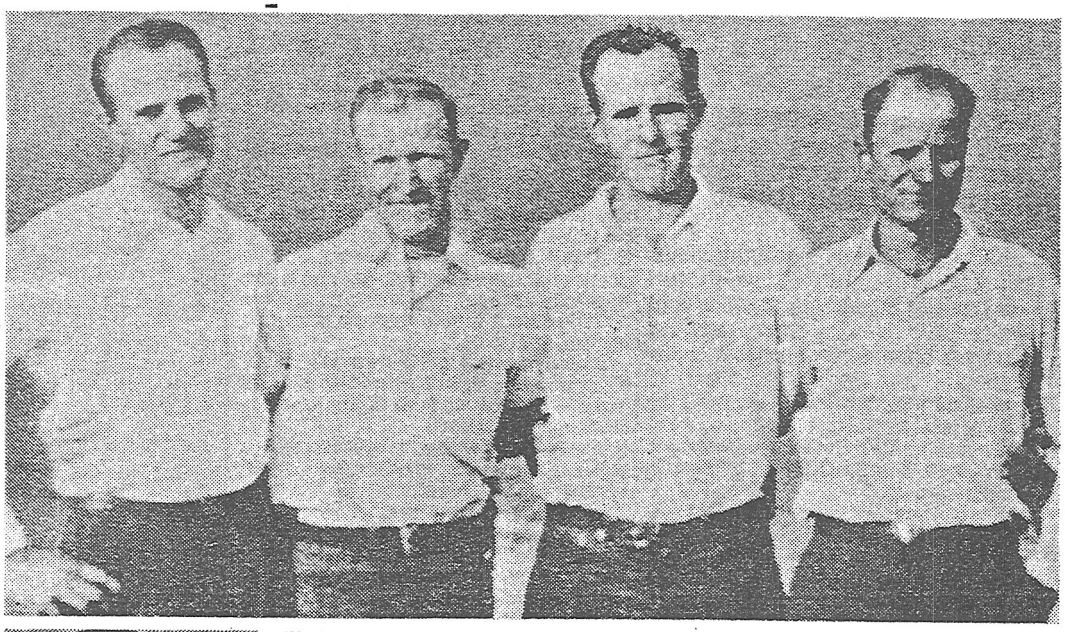
"Ervil has his followers convinced he's going to rule the earth, that he's a great prophet, and that he's doing the will of God. But he has become a servant of Satan."

Added an investigator:

"The Presidency is a natural target for Ervil since he feels he should rightfully occupy that office."

The bizarre link between LeBaron and the JFK assassination surfaced simultaneously on two fronts: during a probe into the attempted assassination of Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt, and in a close scrutiny by The ENQUIRER of once-secret federal documents.

Flynt, who had become deeply embroiled in the search for JFK's real killers, told The ENQUIRER he was just about to release new evidence when he was gunned down on a Georgia street



FUGITIVE Ervil LeBaron (second from right), with three of his brothers — Verlan, Floren and, at right, Joel, whom Ervil was convicted of murdering.

BROTHER Alma LeBaron warns Ervil is on a killing spree.

on March 6, 1978. He was left paralyzed from the waist down.

Freelance writer Seri Mitchell, who's preparing a book about LeBaron, told The ENQUIRER: "FBI agents were here asking me what I knew about Ervil. They told me he's a prime suspect in the shooting of Larry Flynt."

And Robert Ingram, commander of the Organized Crime and Fugitive Squad for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, told The ENQUIRER:

"The theory that he (Flynt) was shot because of what he had discovered on the Kennedy assassination is a valid one. I certainly wouldn't rule it out."

Contacted by The ENQUIRER, Flynt refused to discuss LeBaron. "I still fear for my life because of the facts I uncovered on Kennedy's assassination," he said.

While the FBI won't publicly admit it's seeking LeBaron in connection with Flynt's shooting, it says he's wanted for "unlawful flight to avoid prosecution" in connection with the murder of a rival cult leader.

A team of ENQUIRER reporters unearthed further evidence of the link between LeBaron and JFK's slaying while sifting through thousands of once-classified FBI and Secret Service documents in Washington.

One FBI message from the Salt Lake City office, marked "Urgent;" was sent to FBI headquarters in Dallas on Nov. 26, 1963 — four days after Kennedy's death. It reported that stock clerk Bob Cone of Salt Lake City had tipped of agents about a murder plot being hatched by the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times — whose members called one of their leaders, Ervil LeBaron, the "Avenging Angel."

Cone told agents that his close friend, cult follower Ralph Higbee, "since July 1963, has made statements to Cone indicating members (of) this church have been plotting assassination of top government officials in order that (the) church can take over government . . . Headquarters (of the cult) are in El Paso, Tex., and leaders are brothers named Joel and Ervil LeBaron . . . "

Next day a second FBI memo reported: "Cone believes this group was responsible for President Kennedy's death . . . "

Veteran FBI agent William Geiermann, who headed the Salt Lake City investigation in 1963, recalled in an ENQUIRER interview that Cone "seemed rather agitated" when recounting what he'd learned of the feared cult's plans.

"Cone told me that from July 1963, Higbee had been telling him that the LeBaron church had been plotting the assassination of top government officials," said Geiermann.

"Cone was concerned because this church, even then, was wild and radical."

Another FBI document said Secret Service agent Robert Grube, then in charge of the Salt Lake City office, has been instructed to make a "full investigation" into the cult. But when The ENQUIRER contacted Grube, he said he couldn't recall making such an investigation.

On Jan. 27, 1964, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover fired off a memo to the agent in charge of the Salt Lake City office, directing him to obtain the results of the Secret Service's investigation. Hoover said that LeBaron's cult "is believed to have been responsible for President Kennedy's death."

Incredibly, at the very time that top secret document was sent, the FBI and Hoover were publicly insisting there was no conspiracy and that only Oswald was involved in JFK's assassination.

According to people who were close to

(Continued on next page)

'FBI Documents Show Ervil LeBaron Considered Prime Suspect in JFK Slaying'

(Continued from preceding page)

LeBaron in 1963, he hated Kennedy. He considered the Catholic President "a beast coming out of the sea" and feared "there would be a Roman Catholic government" if JFK stayed in power.

The newly released federal documents cast a shocking new light on the JFK case, declared attorney and assassination investigator Mark Lane, author of the best-selling "Rush to Judgement."

"These documents clearly show that the FBI believes LeBaron was involved in the JFK shooting," said Lane. "They clearly show that, despite the official line that there was no conspiracy, the FBI was investigating a conspiracy — and that Ervil LeBaron was a prime suspect."

Where is LeBaron now? Authorities believe he's in Mexico, but makes frequent forays into the United States. Some day soon, when he crosses the border, they hope to nab the "Avenging Angel" — and find out, once and for all, who really killed JFK.